improvement in the overall functioning are considered and implemented, wherever found necessary and feasible.

Damage to Coaches on Test Run

3924. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 24 specially designed air conditioned Shatabdi styled coaches, with many advanced features, were heavily damaged while on test run between Ghaziabad and Khurja, as a result of severe stoning without provocation and sheer vandalism; and

(b) if so, the extent of damage caused, the steps taken to apprehend the culprits and to check such vandalism on rail tracks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the trials of imported LHB coaches on 3rd, 6th, 7th, 13th and 14th March, 2001, 66 smoke glasses, 2 frosted glasses and 2 destination glasses were broken due to stone throwing by vandals between Ghaziabad and Khurja. The total value of property damaged was Rs. 2.8 lakhs approx.

Equity Participation by Railways in NTPC

3925. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway have been considering to have equity participation in power generation projects of NTPC;

(b) whether modalities of such participation have been framed up;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of legal viability of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) Railways are exploring the possibility of joint ventures with NTPC and other public/private power producers so as to obtain power at reasonable rates. The modalities of such participation have not yet been firmed up.